

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:SMKLINGAMAN
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON
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-----180623 085136 /20
R 172103Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, AU

SUBJECT: COUNTRY PAPER ON NARCOTICS

1. REQUEST EMBASSY UPDATE ASAP FOLLOWING COUNTRY PAPER ON
NARCOTICS PREPARED 1976. SLUG REPLY FOR EUR/CE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: AUSTRIA IS A
NATURAL TRANSIT POINT FOR ILLICIT DRUGS FROM BOTH THE
MIDDLE AND THE FAR EAST. THESE DRUGS ARE DESTINED FOR
WESTERN EUROPE, CANADA, AND THE UNITED STATES. ALL PORTS
OF ENTRY ARE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO FREQUENT TOURIST AND
VISITOR TRAVEL PEAKS OF MASSIVE PROPORTIONS, AT WHICH TIMES
ANY PRACTICABLE LEVEL OF CUSTOMS CONTROL WOULD NOT SUFFICE
AS A COMPLETE DETERRENT. EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT ILLICIT
DRUGS ARE NEITHER PRODUCED NOR PROCESSED IN AUSTRIA, AND
THERE IS AS YET NO SERIOUS INTERNAL DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM.
USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS SEEMS MORE COMMON AMONG FOREIGN
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VISITORS AND THE RESIDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAN
AMONG AUSTRIANS THEMSELVES.

II. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS ON PART OF HOST COUNTRY: AUSTRIA
WISHES TO HAVE ITS COUNTRY OPEN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO
FOREIGN VISITORS. INDEED, ITS ECONOMIC WELL BEING REQUIRES

A SUBSTANTIAL INFLUX OF TOURISTS AND BUSINESS VISITORS EACH YEAR. THE LACK OF ANY SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEM INVOLVING THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS, FUNDING REQUIREMENTS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTORS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE TRANSIT PROBLEM. STILL, THE GOVERNMENT IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO POPULAR DEMAND FOR ACTION. AUSTRIA HAS NOT RATIFIED THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, ITS AMENDING PROTOCOL, OR THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES. DRUG OFFENSES ARE NOT COVERED IN ITS EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHERE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS DO COOPERATE INTERNATIONALLY.

"III. U.S. PROGRAMS: THERE IS A DEA OFFICE IN VIENNA, LOCATED IN THE EMBASSY. US ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING HAVE INCREASED AUSTRIA'S CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND USERS. THIS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND TO RESULT IN EVEN MORE AWARENESS ON THE PART OF AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS OF THE ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

HARTMAN

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